



The Literacy Greenhouse: Seeds for a Lifetime



PRESENTED BY

Chris Mattatall, Jason Big Charles, Kim Barker-Kay, Miriam Ramzy, PhD, Michelle Bence, Marylou Dickson, Maria Walther, Sharon Skretting, Kelly Gibbs, Dr. Kathy Salmon, Dr. Robin Bright, Julia Lindsey, Claude Quevillon Lacasse, Lise L'Heureux, Geneviève Boutin & Pascal Lefebvre, Lana Lane, Angela DesBarres, Kim Tackaberry, Bev Smith & Irene Heffel

FEE

\$150.00

QUESTIONS?

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SERIES SESSIONS

Date	Time
August 18, 2025	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
August 19, 2025	8:30 AM - 12:00 PM



LOCATION

Zoom Online Meeting - Zoom

Learning Opportunity

Time	Presenter(s)	Session
Aug 18, 2025		
8:30 to 10:00 AM	Julia Lindsey	Part 1 Audience: K-6
	Dr. Chris Mattatall	Brain Research - Learning to Read Audience:
	Maria Walther	Shared Reading Audience: K-5
	Jason Big Charles and Kim Barker-Kay	Oral Language and Storytelling Audience: K-12

	Lise L'Heureux	Linguistique 101 - Les fondements en lecture-écriture Audience: K-6
10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Julia Lindsey	Part 2 Audience: K-6
	Michelle Bence and Miriam Ramzy	Layers of Literacy Audience: Grades 5-9
	Maria Walther	Read Aloud Audience: K-5
	Claude Quevillon Lacasse	Enseigner la syntaxe de façon créative et intégrée grâce à la combinaison de phrases libre Audience: 7-12

Time	Presenter (s)	Session
Aug 19, 2025		
8:30 to 10:00 AM	Lana Lane, Angela DesBarres, and Kim Tackaberry	Structuring the Literacy Block Audience: K-2
	Sharon Skretting	Artificial Intelligence & Backwards Design Utilizing AB Curriculum Audience: K-12
	Kelly Gibbs	TBD
	Marylou Dickson	Using an Untapped Resource: English-Specific Thinking Audience: Grades 7-12
	Geneviève Boutin	Stratégies concrètes pour soutenir et stimuler l'apprentissage de la lecture-écriture chez les élèves dyslexiques-dysorthographiques Audience: K-6
10:30 AM to 12:00 PM	Dr. Kathy Salmon	Supporting EAL Across the Curriculum Audience: K-12
	Bev Smith, Kelly Gibbs, and Irene Heffel	Comprehensive Literacy Guides Audience: K-6
	Robin Bright	Building Strong Foundations in Classrooms: Tier 1 Target Practices to Support Literacy Development Audience: Grades 4-8

Marylou Dickson	Using an Untapped Resource: English-Specific Thinking - Part II Audience: Grades 7-12
Pascal Lefebvre	Les comptines interactives enrichies pour apprendre Audience: K-2

Presenters

Chris Mattatall

Dr. Chris Mattatall is an Associate Professor of Educational Psychology and Inclusion in the Faculty of Education. He teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate programs, helping to prepare pre-service teachers for an exciting life as professional educators. An educator for more than 30 years, Dr. Mattatall also conducts research in areas related to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, as well as early reading acquisition and intervention. He is also currently serving as the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors Teaching Chair (2023-2025).

Jason Big Charles

Wapastim (White Horse), Jason Bigcharles is a father of 7 and grandfather of 17. He is proudly Metis from the Metis settlement of East Prairie. He has lived on the East Prairie Metis Settlement his whole life. He has been a teacher for 20+ years and taught various grade levels before moving into educational leadership for 14 years before moving on to becoming a successful Education Consultant. Although he is Metis, his family is deeply rooted in Cree cultural practice and spiritualism. They continue to maintain a very high subsistence lifestyle, carrying on those traditions. Currently he is an Independent Education Consultant specializing in FNMI content and curriculum.

He has specialized experience in administering Culture-Based-Learning Camps and cultural teachings to students of all ages which focus on traditional Land-Based teachings of the Woodland Cree Peoples and Metis both traditional and contemporary while infusing curriculum into lessons. He is a powwow dancer, storyteller, hunter, trapper and medicinal plant gatherer and knowledge keeper. Most of his time, aside from work, is spent on the land hunting, trapping, gathering medicinal plants, passing on teachings and visiting elders. Along with being dedicated to his traditions and spiritualism, he is also dedicated to lifelong learning and the belief that learning never stops.

Kim Barker-Kay

Kim is currently a consultant with the Northwest Regional Learning Consortium. Previously, Kim was a teacher, principal, and researcher in north western Alberta. Her work and research evolved into a focus on building educational equity. She spent many years involved in diversity leadership training which is now merging with an anti-racism focus. Additionally, Kim had a unique experience as the protégé of a Cree Elder for ten years. As a principal, Kim was able to put what she learned into practice with favourable results in student achievement. She learned first hand the complexities involved in building educational equity which led her to her current path with infusing Indigenous ways of knowing and being into new curriculum, as well as doing a deeper exploration into decolonization and anti-racism work. Kim continues to live in the High Prairie area. Her great passions include her family and the outdoors.

Miriam Ramzy, PhD

Miriam Ramzy is a teacher and researcher based in Alberta. She has worked as a classroom teacher in both English and French Immersion settings, a literacy coach and facilitator, a school administrator, and Director of Student Learning. Currently, she works with school boards across Western Canada, supporting teachers, leaders, educational assistants, parents, and students from Jr. K - 12. Her work centers on literacy research and practice, with a deep commitment to supporting partners in education to create effective, responsive, and inclusive spaces where all students thrive. Miriam holds a PhD from the University of Calgary. Her research examined writing instruction, with a particular focus on the transcription process. She continues to contribute to professional learning and educational research with a passion for bridging theory and classroom practice.

Michelle Bence, PhD

Michelle Bence is a dedicated educator with over 20 years of experience in K-12 classrooms and literacy education. She has worked extensively with several school boards across Western Canada as a literacy consultant, leading initiatives in literacy development, professional teacher learning, and the system-wide implementation of evidence-based literacy practices. Michelle recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Calgary. Her research focuses on dialogic pedagogy and its role in fostering students' complex thinking, literacy identities, and language development in relation to literacy acquisition and engagement with texts.

Marylou Dickson

Marylou Dickson EdD brings over three decades of pedagogical experience to the field of secondary literacy. Her doctoral research, culminating in an EdD, focused on the engagement of secondary discipline specialists with discipline-specific texts, providing a rigorous foundation for her expertise. Within the Edmonton School Board, Dr. Dickson has held diverse roles, including a tenure of over twenty-five years as a secondary English Language Arts educator in both traditional and virtual learning environments, departmental leadership, literacy intervention for students in grades 3-9, and consultancy in secondary literacy. Furthermore, she has contributed to higher education as an instructor of Secondary Discipline-Specific Literacy at The King's University. Her professional engagement extends to service as the secretary for the Northern Alberta Reading Specialist Council. Dr. Dickson's scholarly and practical commitment to the integration of literacy across all secondary disciplines has cultivated refined coaching skills, enabling her to facilitate the effective communication of discipline-specific literacy by secondary educators to their students.

Maria Walther

Maria Walther, is a seasoned educator, author, and literacy consultant with over three decades of experience teaching first grade. Her practical, yet engaging approach to classroom instruction has made her a trusted partner for educators seeking effective teaching strategies. With a doctoral degree from Northern Illinois University, Maria is an avid researcher who continues to further her knowledge of literacy instruction. All of Maria's books are filled with helpful ideas for busy literacy teachers. Learn more about her consulting work and find other resources at mariawalther.com or find her on Instagram @mariapwalther and @ayear4thebooks.

Sharon Skretting

Sharon Skretting has 32 + years of service in education. She has served as a classroom teacher, instructional and assessment coach at the district level, and a principal. Her passion is to support teachers to increase student engagement and ownership for learning.

Kelly Gibbs

Kelly has spent her educational career supporting students with a variety of needs and supporting staff building instructional strategies. She wanted to know more about how students learn and why they had difficulty learning...so back to school she went! As a teacher and a Reading Specialist, Kelly holds a Masters degree from the University of Alberta in the area of language and literacy development and specialized assessment. She built her knowledge of UDL through her work at the University of Manitoba. Her work as a Consultant supported teachers in building inclusive practice in all divisions. She has in-depth experience doing professional development, with a focus on instructional strategies and implementation of such strategies. She has taught pre-service teachers at the University of Alberta for the past year. Kelly's joy has been found in supporting staff in the use of research-based strategies that make teaching and learning intentional and meaningful.

Dr. Kathy Salmon

Dr. Kathy Salmon was one of the principle writers for Benchmarks 2.0 and Benchmarks 1.0. Through her 23 years in public education as a teacher, EAL specialist, consultant, assistant principal and principal, Kathy understands the complexities involved in creating optimal programming and learning supports for English as an Additional language learners in the diverse school contexts. Kathy's doctoral dissertation was focused on Effective Teaching for EAL learners in Alberta and she recognizes the importance of understanding how English language proficiency connects to curricular content learning.

Dr. Robin Bright

Julia Lindsey

Claude Quevillon Lacasse

Claude Quevillon Lacasse est professeure adjointe à la Faculté d'éducation de l'Université d'Ottawa. Elle s'intéresse à la didactique de la grammaire et de l'écriture, notamment par la littérature jeunesse, à la didactique intégrée des langues, au développement de compétences bi-/plurilingues et à la formation des personnes enseignantes.

Lise L'Heureux

Lise L'Heureux est orthopédagogue en pratique privée et directrice générale de La faculté de Lexie et Graphie, un service de formation et de consultation scolaire. Elle a une maîtrise en didactique et, de ce fait, elle est une experte des effets de la morphologie sur l'apprentissage de l'orthographe lexicale au primaire. Lise se spécialise dans l'enseignement systématique et explicite de la lecture-écriture, et des difficultés spécifiques en apprentissage du français ou de l'anglais.

Geneviève Boutin

Avec près de 20 ans d'expérience dans le domaine de l'éducation, Geneviève Boutin est orthopédagogue, formatrice, auteure et éditrice spécialisée dans la création de ressources pédagogiques innovantes et s'appuyant sur la recherche.

En tant que fondatrice et directrice générale de Fino Éducation, elle est amenée à collaborer avec différents professionnels, auteurs, formateurs et chercheurs afin de développer des produits éducatifs et des formations en ligne permettant d'optimiser l'impact des interventions des acteurs du milieu éducatif.

La majorité de ses publications sont maintenant largement utilisées par les orthopédagogues et les enseignants. Elle a également développé plusieurs formations sur les difficultés d'apprentissage ainsi que sur l'évaluation, l'enseignement

et la rééducation de la lecture-écriture. Ces formations sont reconnues pour leur rigueur scientifique et leur application pratique.

Pascal Lefebvre

Pascal Lefebvre est un formateur et un consultant qui allie l'expérience sur le terrain à la connaissance scientifique actuelle. Il a d'abord pratiqué comme orthophoniste dans les milieux de la santé et de l'éducation du Québec. Il a ensuite fait ses études doctorales à l'Université de Montréal dans le domaine de la prévention des difficultés de lecture et d'écriture en créant une approche d'enseignement par la Lecture interactive enrichie d'albums jeunesse auprès des enfants d'âge préscolaire. Il a ensuite œuvré pendant plus de 15 ans comme professeur-chercheur dans les programmes d'orthophonie de l'Université d'Ottawa et de l'Université Laurentienne en Ontario. Auteur de nombreux ouvrages scientifiques et de vulgarisation scientifique, il a été impliqué dans la mise en œuvre de pratiques préventives et inclusives dans les milieux éducatifs en petite enfance et dans de nombreuses écoles primaires francophones du Canada. Il s'investit maintenant dans le développement professionnel continu comme formateur et consultant au Canada et en Europe dans les domaines de l'orthophonie et de l'éducation.

Lana Lane

An Early Years Elementary School teacher by trade, Lana's career began in Grade 1. Since that time, she has been a teacher of Pre-K to Grade 2, a tutor, and K-12 literacy support teacher. As a trained RRSST (Reading Readiness Screening Tool) facilitator and Early Interventionist, the how of acquiring reading has been key in Lana's professional development throughout her teaching career. Consulting independently, working as a learning facilitator for the Learning Network and reading a plethora of books fills many of her days. In her spare time, she enjoys her role as a Family Youth Worker, and tending to her acreage north of Lloydminster. She's a proud mom to an engineer, nurse and aspiring teacher!

Angela DesBarres

Kim Tackaberry

Designer of Professional Learning for Calgary Regional Consortium

Bev Smith

With over 35 years of experience in education, including 25 years in the classroom, Bev Smith has a rich background in teaching and leadership. As the former Literacy and EAL Lead Teacher for the Lethbridge School Division, she specializes in literacy, English as an Additional Language (EAL), and fostering a culture of thinking. Currently, she shares her expertise as a Designer of Professional Learning for APLC - The Consortium at SAPDC, where she continues to champion responsive teaching and student-centered learning. Passionate about literacy and educational innovation, Bev is dedicated to shaping impactful learning experiences for educators and students alike.

Irene Heffel

Registration Notes

Session times are fixed, however, some presenters / topics in each time slot may shift. A FULL schedule with descriptions will be sent out a few days prior to give you time to choose what sessions you would like to attend.

Recordings will be available for ALL sessions for 30 days.



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